



**U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
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News Release

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Captured Enemy Ammunition Program moves forward

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By B.J. Weiner

In the first year of operations, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has received and stored about 369,000 tons of captured enemy ammunition collected throughout Iraq and destroyed nearly 165,000 tons, about 330 million pounds.

Combined Joint Task Force-7, now the Multi-National Corps, selected the Huntsville Engineering and Support Center on July 28, 2003 to conduct the mission. Six weeks later, the first ton of CEA was destroyed.

The program has also blasted through its biggest challenge – transitioning from military control to a civilian-managed working environment, said Glenn Earhart, chief of international operations and CEA program manager. The transition freed military resources to return to their war-fighting duties.

“When the program first began, we were facing quality of life issues, security difficulties and how best to use the local national workforce available to us,” he said. “Now, all that has changed. We have installed base camps at each of our six sites and

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employ more than 1,000 citizens of Iraq as laborers and security forces. Contractors now employ professional security companies from the U.S. and our team controls site security. The only responsibility the military still has is providing convoy security.”

Another goal of the mission is to ensure a quality local national work force and to keep pace with the demands of an improving economy in Iraq.

“As the people working for us become more skilled,” Earhart said, “we will have to keep up with the demands for more competitive wages in accordance with the local economy. Our goal is to eventually return a safer Iraq to its people.”

Although the CEA program has been funded through fiscal year 2005, Earhart said he hopes to complete the CEA portion of the mission by December 2004. The Huntsville Center recently received \$525 million to perform worldwide Munitions Response Services and Other Munitions Related Services (MMR). Ten contractors will share capacity in this contract. Another \$250 million for fixed-price response and insurance contracts was awarded for other MMR services.

“About 75 percent of the work awarded under the \$525 million contract is expected to be performed as part of the U.S. Army’s Captured Enemy Ammunition mission in Iraq and possibly in other areas outside the United States,” said Dan Coberly, the Huntsville Center public affairs officer.

Huntsville Center employees are committed to providing quality services and products in the most cost-efficient way possible, said Col. John Rivenburgh, Huntsville Center commander, and added that the mission in Iraq is no different. “Our soldiers, contracting employees and DA civilians serving in Iraq are magnificent,” he said. “They

are diligent in their execution and professional in all they do. Their sacrifice is no less than it is for our soldiers, and we should never lose touch with that."